You said…

In a recent survey, our PtG list serve participants shared their top ten priority needs. The top three identified needs are (1) Chronic Absenteeism, (2) dropout prevention strategies, and (3) student empowerment and motivation. We intend to address all ten priorities this year through our monthly e-newsletter. It is our hope that the information and resources we provide will support you in your daily work.

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism in Kentucky is defined as missing 10% or more (FTE) of the school year for any reason. We currently have a KY workgroup comprised of many stakeholders groups within and outside of KDE working on ways to support districts in reducing chronic absenteeism. This includes development of resources, data tools, and campaign materials schools can adopt. While these are in the works, there are resources compiled by *Attendance Works* that you can view by clicking **here.** Be sure to see their *Tools & T.A.* section.

Upcoming Webinar: *Reducing Chronic Absence: It's a Matter of 1, 2, 3!* (Tuesday, March 28 at 2:00 pm ET) **Register here**

Interactive Map: Click here to see where KY stands by level (elementary, middle and high) in an **interactive map.**

Article: Using "nudge letters" to yield better attendance can be found **here.**

Dropout Prevention Strategies

The National Dropout Prevention Center has compiled a substantive bank of effective dropout prevention strategies organized in four categories: (1) Foundational, (2) Early Intervention, (3) Basic Core Strategies, and (4) Managing and Improving Instruction. Please click **here** to access their repository of resources.

Upcoming Webinar: *Moving the Needle on Youth Disconnection: Insights from Measure of America's New Report* (Thursday March 30 at 1:00 PM EDT) **Register Here**

Learning from Failure

So many of our students across the risk continuum struggle with a sense of failure. This topic is often not addressed, yet this sense of failure prevents the re-engagement of students who have dropped out (or been pushed out). *Edutopia* has a collection of videos and practical strategies that may help you with targeting strategies that help students view mistakes as opportunities. Click **here** for their resource bank.

Promoting Self-Regulation in Adolescents

As we know, our students need to be armed with many critical skills that are not always directly addressed in our curriculum, such as managing frustration and distress, goal setting, delayed gratification, and persistence. These are critical life skills that can prevent students from dropping out and support them when they re-engage. You will find a very informative brief on promoting self-regulation skills here.

Did you know…?

In Kentucky, 59% of human trafficking victims are children. A **recent study** found that over 40% of homeless youth surveyed in Kentuckiana are sex-trafficking victims. Many of our students are at high risk of becoming victims of trafficking. Please take some time to review this **resource guide** on human trafficking in America's schools. For more information on human trafficking in Kentucky, including children, click **here.**

Using the Early Warning and Persistence to Graduation Tools

KDE is currently working with Infinite Campus on the second phase of development of the Early Warning tool and will provide updates as they become available. The second phase will provide a GRAD score screen that pinpoints the top data elements that contribute to each student's score. We also have a district advisory team representing 12 districts across KY to ensure district and school user input and feedback. You may want to review this **PowerPoint** that provides information on both the Persistence to Graduation tool and the Early Warning tool, including limitations to be aware of.

Save the Date for our 2017 Persistence to Graduation Summit!

The summit this year will be on June 14-15 in Lexington, KY. A poverty simulation and debrief will be held the evening of June 14, followed by a networking event and reception. June 15 will include breakout sessions on topics such as alternative education, chronic absenteeism, culture and climate, credit recovery, trauma-informed practices, universal design for learning, growth mindset, implicit bias, project-based learning, and community partnerships. Registration information will be coming soon.

We are a Professional Learning Community!

We know that many of you practitioners "on the ground" in our districts and schools are implementing innovative and impactful strategies, policies and programs that are helping students persist. We also know many of you have questions that your peers can answer best! If you have any questions please pose them to the Persistence to Graduation listserv and you will be pleasantly surprised at the responsiveness of your peers across this state! Be courageous...ask questions!

Thank you for all you do for our students every day!

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